IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Bernard Joseph Banks, et al.

Examiner: To Be Assigned

APPLICATION NO.: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: To Be

Assigned

FILING DATE: Herewith

TITLE: TREATMENT OF RUMEN ACIDOSIS WITH α -AMYLASE INHIBITORS

Hon. Commissioner for Patents Mail Stop Patent Application P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicants' respectfully request entry of the following amendments:

Please enter the following sentence as the first paragraph in the specification, immediately following the title:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/059,667, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/864,515, filed on May 24, 2001, which claims priority of U.K. Patent Application No. 0012793.6, filed on May 24, 2000, U.K. Patent Application No. 0012760.5, filed on May 24, 2000, U.K. Patent Application No. 0017495.3, filed on July 17, 2000, and the benefit of U.S. Patent Application No. 60/218,494, filed on July 14, 2000, U.S. Patent Application No. 60/218,326, filed on July 14, 2000, and U.S. Patent Application No. 60/225,156, filed on August 14, 2000.